

hole pine tree from new york

1 message



Fri, Feb 19, 2010 at 1:54 PM

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

I am writing to you about the holed, possibly contemporary counterfeit, Pine Tree Shilling that you have been holding for me and my associates. I appreciate that you for taken the time to objectively study the coin using specific gravity test(s) and to do so many other comparative studies in an attempt to make the correct conclusion about classifying the shilling. Is it a genuine new contemporary variety as the Noe 13 and Noe 14 are considered to be? If not, what?

As I have stated before you can keep the coin and send me back coin(s) you would like in exchange. Placing the coin in the proper sequence in your collection would be an honor. Some might consider this a "unique" offer but it is obviously a correct offer. The name Eric Newman in the field of numismatics is already an unblemished name of fairness and integrity. (For me, it would only continue my unusual numismatic trading strategy and style).

If you would rather send the holed Pine Tree back, that is fine also.

Hopefully you would write some definitively sounding evaluation. It really is a stylistically and charming piece to me.

Be well. Please enjoy the email as it is intended.

I am in your debt and honored that you have taken the time and effort with this newly discovered holed Pine Tree Shilling.

Feel free to call me at home at anytime. I will answer any question you might have.

Respectfully,

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third....aka...... A Man of many Titles

and Robert M. Martin with David Wnuck and with John Agere



holed contemporary pine tree

1 message



Sun, Mar 21, 2010 at 1:04 AM

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

Our telephone call regarding the holed pine tree we sent you was very very enjoyable. Yes, I was on my way to explain how wampum was being used in New York from the 1620's onward. "True New York "wampum" or "sewan" consisted of long strings of tiny purple and white beads sewn together into belts: a large belt, six feet or so in length would have contained six or seven thousand beads. The beads themselves were made from certain clam or whelk shells that could only be found along the shores of Naragansett Bay and Long Island Sound." The Iroquois did use the wampum for diplomatic and ceremonial purposes. The coastal Algonkians traded the wampum with the Mahicans. Governor William Bradford at Plymouth Massachusetts used wampum as "a great alteration" in the affairs of the entire region. Yes the (Dutch) West India Company were soon buying up all the wampum! Today I have been buying up some of the better "holed" colonial coins I can find, not unlike The West India Company (on a much much smaller scale, of course!)

Holed coins are mislabeled as mutilated or defaced coins. Holed coins were primarily used for decoration or for good luck or to ward off evil spirits (et al). I believe the holed pine tree coin you have of ours is one of those holed coins. I do realize that the placement of the hole may well be used to attach to a piece of clothing, in a utilitarian or decorative manner or possibly to the mast of a ship. If you could give a tentative explanation of the holed coin and send the coin back I would be elated. If you want to keep or trade for the coin I will consider any request. I am still in charge of the group but my leadership may clearly be on the wane. (Governor Bradford led for so long!).

It is an honor to write to you. I do hope you are feeling well and doing great. Your wish is my command and we have never met.

Email or call 24/7 @ my residence @

Very Respectfully

Thanks again

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esg. the third & Robert M. Martin with David Wnuck & John Agere.



Your messages

1 message



Sat, Mar 27, 2010 at 8:47 PM

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your recent message which added to our telephone conversation.

I am satisfied that the hole in your coin was punched with a square nail. This was possible whether it was a genuine piece or a contemporary counterfeit made during the Pine Tree circulating period. I do not think it was struck as a later forgery. Washington University has just asked me if they could have it back for testing to see if it has traces of mercury. I hope you have no objection to that and I will retrieve it from my bank vault. It will be helpful in rendering their analytic conclusions.

You indicated that you had about 75 holed Connecticut copper pieces. I would like to know how many are hummerdingers. These would have two equal sized small holes an equal distance from the center and close to it along a diameter. I am sure you are familiar with the children's toy called the hummerdinger but if not I will be glad to explain it to you. I was amused by it as a boy and this was developed long long ago after cotton string became readily available.

My very best to you.

Eric



the holed pine tree

1 message



Sun, May 9, 2010 at 3:21 PM

Dear Eric Newman,

I am writing about the holed square nail Pine Tree Shilling that has gone through a content analysis by members of a College Physics Department.

Ultimately the question is whether the coin is genuine, a contemporary counterfeit or some other deliniation. You are the person to decide what category the Pine Tree Shilling should or will be classified. It is an honor not bestowed upon lightly upon someone but with your body of numismatic work it is clearly given correctly. I am humbled

to have sent you the coin and you also find the coin so fascinating. The size of the lettering, the square nail hole and the metal content are among possible unusual and deciding factors.

I hope you can make a decision. About two and one half years have elapsed and my three partners/associates remain only studious observers.

Please understand I refuse and will not press you. I would be ecstatic

- if you would keep the coin and send some coin or coins back in trade so the coin is in your museum
- 2. decide this deserves a new Noe variety
- 3. if you have any other request I will most certainly reply

((As a side bar,as requested, I do have a humdinger Connecticut and a Connecticut with three uneven holes.. My prize holed Connecticuts include but are not limited to a 2 1787 M 3.G-1, a holed Connecticut @

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,& 12 O'clock on the obverse a 33.39-Z.20 in a high grade......(Yes, I do have other holed state coppers & related issues))

The idea of holed Connecticuts began with Mr. Mike Ringo who traded me the beginning of my collection twenty years ago

for a 1794 cent. (Trading you for the holed pine tree would continue my magical numismatic career. I would then have to

recompense my partners/associates which would be another glorious endeavor).

I hope you are feeling extremely well and enjoying it all. Being just a speck on the American numismatic landscape, our correspondence and telephone conversation have been an outright honor for me. I do know who you are and I remain

a man of many titles including

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third representing Robert M. Martin w/ David Wnuck & John Agere email

24 hour message machine # home number #

Thank you once again

Michael Spencer





Happy Birthday/Holed Pine Tree

2 messages

lo:

Wed, May 26, 2010 at 6:43 PM

Dear Eric,

Happy 99 nth birthday

How is the Holed Pine Tree Shilling?

I hope you can write a narrative explaining whether the coin is a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit or some other delineation.and then return the coin at your earliest convenience.

Or keep the coin and send back whatever you want in trade!

I will do whatever you wish.

Your wish is what I will do! Why not? Trading you blind,sir, would fit my personal approach to dealing with fair and honest people. The coin may fit in your museum, next to another unique holed Pine Tree!

Please understand I am honored and humbled that you

have had the coin about two and one half years, evaluating its possibilities.

Happy Birthday Eric many more, Mr. Newman

Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the Third and Robert M. Martin

with David Wnuck & John Agere (representing World Coin Rarities)

home #

answering machine



Fri, May 28, 2010 at 1:56 PM

Thank you for the birthday greetings. Now I have to try to work my way to 100. However if I were Chinese I would be 100 now as they count the beginning of the year as the proper age number as when you are born you are in your first year. I am going to work extensively on your coin during the summer as I am assembling data on as many holed Massachusetts coins as I can locate.

Did you ever look at your Connecticut coppers for hummerdingers? [Quoted text hidden]

Eric



Holed Pine Tree/humdingers/wellness/thanks

1 message

Sun, Jul 25, 2010 at 6:36 PM

----Original Message-----

From: To:

Sent: Fri, May 28, 2010 1:56 pm

Subject: Re: Happy Birthday/Holed Pine Tree

Thank you for the birthday greetings. Now I have to try to work my way to 100. However if I were Chinese I would be 100 now as they count the beginning of the year as the proper age number as when you are born you are in your first year. I am going to work extensively on your coin during the summer as I am assembling data on as many holed Massachusetts coins as I can locate. .

Did you ever look at your Connecticut coppers for hummerdingers?

reply

Dear Eric Newman.

Connecticut humdingers

1786 5.1-H.1

1787 10-E

1787 15-F (dbl plugged!)

1787 28-n

1787 32.4-X.5 (with an attempted third hole)

1787 33.14-Z.14

1787 33.31-gg.2

1787 39.2-ee (holed at 12 & 2 O.clock

Machin Mill humdingers

1776 6-76A

1778 11-78A (7 holes toward the rim with a center hole)

Rosa Americana humdinger

1723 (4 holes)

Washington humdinger

Unity States 1783 (2 holes at 12 & 6 o'clock but the sizes of the holes are quite different)

New Jersey humdingers

1786 12-I

1786 15-J (3 holes made to look like a face)r

1787 33-U (3rd hole plugged at 12 o'clock)

1787 63-S

1788 78-dd (second hole attempted but not completed)

Vermont humdinger

1786 R 7 (technically one hole with three other attempted holes)

Massachusetts humdingers

1787 3-G (provenance includes Treasure Chest and once owned by E. Newman!)

1787 6-N

I hope you are well. Thanks for working on my holed pine tree shilling with such due diligence.

Please email or call me @ home @ anytime. I do have a holed Oak Tree N. 5 but it has, alas, only one hole. Most numismatists (not me) are only interested in the color, surface and rarity of the coin and sneer at the hole. The hole "mutilates and destroys" the integrity and value of the coin! The list above is only

humdingers. I would be honored to show you my holed collection. No one has asked to see the group so far. If you ask, you would be the first.

Yes, stay well.

Thanks for all the emails.

Respectfully



c/o Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third c/o a man with many

P.S. If you want to keep the holed pine tree just send another coin or coins in trade. Yes, I will trade you blind. Life is grand! Thank you again

Yes, I have holed obverse coins at 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 & 12 O'clock. I have holed I oo (Ink on obverse), pinholes, large, very large, huge, irregular, rectangular, square nail, plugged, dbl plugged, and natural holes.



contemporary holed pine tree

1 message

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third Mon, Oct 4, 2010 at 12:03 PM

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you about the holed pine tree shilling that professors in St. Louis were studying x ray diffraction. It is difficult to rush college professors but I do hope they have returned the coin with definitive findings.

The possibility of identifying a silver pine tree counterfeit that circulated during that same circulating period requires knowledge and courage, two qualities very few contemporary numismatists have or share. I am counting on a numismatist I have never met, you sir.

Whatever opinions you have generated I will listen to carefully. Again, if you want to keep the coin, send a coin or coins back in barter. I will accept any trade unconditionally. Numismatics, like life, is intended to be experiential and fun. I have felt that this is just "another chance of a lifetime."

If you would ever like to see my humble yet fascinating entire holed colonial collection I would enjoy showing it to you. No one but me has ever seen the entire collection, but then there remains very little interest. Many numismatists have become registry set collectors and consider these coins "mutilated or"damaged" when the holes were utilitarian and accepted.

home #

Yes, "a blind trade" would make numismatic history and for me is just "another chance of a lifetime."

My partner and associates and I will await your reply

I will repay your efforts with any request you ask.

Thanks you for your due diligence and the courage to take on such a decision.

Michael Spencer message # w/ Robert M. Martin & David Wnuck & John Agere.



SECOND email

2 messages

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third

Thu, Oct 28, 2010 at 1:18 AM

Dear Eric,

How is the Holed Pine Tree Shilling? [€]

I hope you can write a narrative explaining whether the coin is a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit or some other delineation.and then return the coin at your earliest convenience.

Or keep the coin and send back whatever you want in trade!

I will do whatever you wish.

Your wish is what I will do! Why not? Trading you blind, sir, would

fit my personal approach to dealing with fair and honest people.

The coin may fit in your museum, next to another unique holed Pine Tree! Please understand I am honored and humbled that you have had the coin about two years and ten months, evaluating its possibilities.

l hope you are well.≌

Respectfully

Michael Xavier Spencer call me at home anytime @

or leave message

To:

Thu, Oct 28, 2010 at 3:07 PM

Dear Friend:

There is a new book on Massachusetts Silver to be published by the American Numismatic Society in December 2010 written by a man named Salmon. I do not know him and I have not had access to the content as yet. It is very important because I am told that it has comment on some of the Contemporary Counterfeits. In the meantime the professors at Washington University have asked for further testing for refinements of its silver content and adulterants. I look forward to their comments

I am sure you realize that you have given me a most difficult problem which pleases me.

You may or may not be aware that I have had a lot of publicity on the publication by the University of Pennsylvania Press of my discovery of the earliest engraving of an Audubon bird. I will send you an off print from the Journal of the Early Republic if that is of interest to you, That only took 5 years to research and find. It was on a bank note and that is why the 50 year old problem was handed to me. There is a major exhibition at Princeton University featuring the matter now.

I was fascinated by your listing of the holed colonial copper items. They seemed to be in every position and in various sizes and numbers. The holes in Spanish silver and Mass silver are usually near the edge as you know to sew on to a woman's dress or an Indian's outfit. Yours could range from a mast adjustment to anything.

My best to you.

Eric



SECOND email

2 messages

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Thu, Oct 28, 2010 at 1:18 AM

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My best to you.

Eric



holed pine tree

2 messages

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

Wed, Jan 12, 2011 at 10:04 AM

То:

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you regarding my holed pine tree shilling that you have in your possession. The hope remains that the pine tree is a silver pine tree counterfeit made during the circulating period or a new variety.

I am asking for the *coin to be returned* as it has been in your sole possession for three (3) years. If you could write any explanation about whether the pine tree is a contemporary counterfeit or a new variety I would be very appreciative. I realize the project has been quite difficult. X ray diffraction and/or deciding if there is a new discovery takes time and courage. You are one of the only numismatists that can do such work and the decision not be questioned.

Yes, if you want to keep the coin and send me something in trade I would agree blindly. You are famous for being more than fair. My old friend, Mike Ringo, had spoken about your fairness and knowledge many times. I have a partner (Robert Martin) and two associates (David Wnuck & John Agere) who have let me do all writing to you and decision making about this coin.

Thank you so very much for taking all the time and thought with the holed pine tree. *Anything you want, just ask.*

I remain in your debt.

Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer

home # mess # c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com.

To:

Wed, Jan 12, 2011 at 2:03 PM

Dear Michael:

I have several pieces of Mass silver here now for authenticity determination. Some are at Washington University for trace analysis and other study.

In the new book on early American counterfeiting by Dr, Philip Mossman to be published by the American Numismatic Society very soon (the first section having just been published in CNL) there is no finding of even a mention of any silver contemporary counterfeit comment, or accusation or court mention. There is a pot metal reference which I published long ago. I have read the Mossman draft submitted to me. I believe I previously told you that was what I already believed.

There is also a book on Mass silver by

Chris Salmon which is also supposed to be sent out now by the American Numismatic Society but I have not yet seen any preliminary text.

Right now I favor your coin as being a new variety rather than a later than circulation copy or forgery, but this is not yet an opinion. The hole is a favorable factor as the coin having become a clothing ornament and no counterfeiter would be likely to put a hole in his product if it were to be passed to the public.

I have a holed NE XII Mass silver piece sent here for study and have had to find as many as I can of any type of an example of holed Mass silver which is illustrated in auction catalogs of the past. This will be of help in the study of holed pieces.

I realize you want prompt action but on very difficult matters like yours the answer is not easy for you and your group.

.

You mention



holed pine tree

2 messages

To:

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

Wed, Jan 12, 2011 at 10:04 AM

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Thank you so very much for taking all the time and thought with the holed pine tree. Anything you want, just ask.

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home # mess#

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You mention





the holed pine tree

2 messages

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third

Wed, Feb 9, 2011 at 2:45 PM

Dear Eric,

First of all I hope you are doing well.

Second, I would greatly appreciate it if you could temporarily **send the holed pine tree back to me** so I could show the coin to a N.Y. numismatist. He would like to have the coin in hand.

please mail to

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer

P.O. Box 867

Harrison N.Y. 10528.

I will resend the coin back to you quickly whenever you say. I do have other coins I would be thrilled to send you including a silver coin resembling an Oak 1 that I find fascinating

My partner and two associates remain fascinated by our three (3) year process with this coin.

Thanks so much for all your help.

I remain in your debt. If you want something, just ask

home message (24/7)

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq aka Cazzie Russell aka A man of many titles.

----Original Message-----From:

To:

Sent: Wed, Jan 12, 2011 2:03 pm Subject: Re: holed pine tree

Dear Michael:

I have several pieces of Mass silver here now for authenticity determination. Some are at Washington University for trace analysis and other study.

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.

In a message dated 1/12/2011 9:04:48 A.M. Central Standard Time,

writes:

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you regarding my holed pine tree shilling that you have in your possession. The hope remains that the pine tree is a silver pine tree counterfeit made during the circulating period or a new variety. I am asking for the coin to be **returned** as it has been in your sole possession for three (3) years. If you could write any explanation about whether the pine tree is a contemporary counterfeit or a new variety I would be very appreciative. I realize the project has been quite difficult. X ray diffraction and/or deciding if there is a new discovery takes time and courage. You are one of the only numismatists that can do such work and the decision not be guestioned.

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Thank you so very much for taking all the time and thought with the holed pine tree. *Anything you want, just ask.*

I remain in your debt.

Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer

c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com.

home # mess #

To:

Mon, Feb 14, 2011 at 11:49 AM

Dear Michael:

In accordance with your instructions of 2/ 9/ 11 your holed small planchet Pine Tree shilling has just been returned from the Chemistry Department of Washington University in St. Louis and it will be packaged and returned to you promptly. Happy Valentine's Day. Eric



receipt of holed pine tree

1 message

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

Sat, Feb 26, 2011 at 6:12 PM

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

I have receipt of the holed pine tree you sent me. I do have an irregularly rectangular holed N 14 (private buyer) and a huge holed Ag Baltimore sixpence C 4 Sale 11/13/04 in my possession. If you want to peruse either I would ship them to you at once.

If you have any copy or summary of the metal diffusion findings as to the composition of the holed pine tree I would be fascinated to read it. (Technical nomenclature makes me happy!). Whether the holed pine tree is a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit (or some other possibility) goes toward the center of the question. A new variety designation would be exciting news.

I certainly would like to pay you for any incurred expenses in our three year ordeal. I apologize for not offering before. It was an oversight on my part.

Thanks again Eric.

Sincerely

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third.....aka....... Roger6161@ AOL.com ...aka "The man with many

(message machine) (home).

Whatever you want, just ask. Yes, you can have the coin back in trade if you wish!



THE holed pine tree

1 message

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third < Wed, May 18, 2011 at 2:31 PM

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you in regards to the holed pine tree which you had in your possession for awhile (3 years).

Metal diffusion test(s), coordinating experts and calling on your wealth of knowledge to make a definitive declaration that the coin is a new Noe variety

if done by you carries the weight of authenticity and finality.

If there is anything I can do, please let me know.

Yes, I would gladly pay for any expenses you incurred.

If you would like to see my Holed colonial collection (mostly state Copper....circa 200 pieces)let me know.

I do have a not holed Oak Tree from NCS Not Genuine 49.6 grains that I could send you to look at. (It is clearly not genuine but fun to handle) and a genuine holed Oak 5 from my personal collection.

If you want the holed pine tree in question for your Museum I would send the coin back and you send a coin in trade.

Trading with you blindly would be fun, wouldn't it?

I hope you are well and will be over hundred years old before we know it!

Thanks for all the emails. They are priceless Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third home # message machine #

c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com. and Cazzie Russell on eBay.



numismatic happening this Saturday

3 messages

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

Wed, Sep 7, 2011 at 7:16 PM

To:

Dear Eric,

I am going to Roger Siboni's house (ANS president) this **Saturday September 10, 2011** 25-30 colonial people will be gathered for the event...

Each guest is asked to give a "presentation" on a colonial "item or concept or..."

After reading your article in the Centennial Publication of the ANS I have decided to speak about the article you wrote "A recently discovered coin solves a Vermont numismatic enigma."

Happily I will add nothing, just repeat what you wrote in 1958.

It may be that you and I are the only living souls that have two 976-B specimens.

(Do you think this is factual?).

Call me anytime Saturday on my cell and I can put you on speaker phone.

or just call me anytime for anything.

Thanks for all your correspondence.

My partner has them sequenced in a folder!

Hope you are well [©]

Thanks for everything

cell#

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third (man of many titles)

message machine

0:

Sat, Sep 10, 2011 at 2:48 PM

Dear Mike

It is thoughtful of you to speak on my 1957 article at the Siboni party. I hope it was a success. Eric [Quoted text hidden]

Reply-To:
To:

Sat, Sep 10, 2011 at 3:04 PM

Thanks for the email. Eric. I am honored. M. Spencer still at the event

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From:

Date: Sat, 10 Sep 2011 14:48:14 -0400 (EDT)

To: <

Subject: Re: numismatic happening this Saturday



numismatic happening this Saturday

3 messages

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

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Thanks for all your correspondence.

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Hope you are well ^{SS}

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message machine

Sat, Sep 10, 2011 at 2:48 PM

It is thoughtful of you to speak on my 1957 article at the Siboni party. I hope it was a success. Eric

[Quoted text hidden]

Reply-To:

Sat, Sep 10, 2011 at 3:04 PM

Thanks for the email. Eric. I am honored. M. Spencer still at the event

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From:

Date: Sat, 10 Sep 2011 14:48:14 -0400 (EDT)

Subject: Re: numismatic happening this Saturday



thank you Eric

1 message

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third <

Fri, Sep 16, 2011 at 11:54 PM

Dear Eric,

I want to thank you for the email you sent last Saturday regarding my presentation of the Machin's Mill 9-76B small date write-up that you first published in the

Centennial Edition of the ANS. Yes, it may be that we are the only two known collectors with two examples of this variety. (Of course I

may be wrong as the population of this variety has increased quite a bit over the last fifty three years).

This was my first appearance at this gathering as I have tried to remain a shadowy figure but I could not resist trying to explain the importance

of the Machin's Mill 9-76B having New York, Vermont & Connecticut connections. How you noticed the Miller 1786 I-A has identical die number

punches with the Machin's Mill 9-76B still makes me smile.

The square nail holed Massachusetts silver pine tree that you had in your possession for awhile was passed to Chris Salmon at the

same ANS "happening." He is the writer of the just published Massachusetts silver book. His initial reaction to the coin was quite

positive and he is doing his "own tests" on the coin. If he decides to do a write-up on the coin, he may ask for your collaboration. I personally

would be flattered if you would be so inclined.

Anything you want from me, just ask. Your wish remains my command.

Thanks again for all your emails and interest.

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third (man of many titles)

24 hour message

home #

c/o roger6161@ AOL.com



Fwd: 105 Happy

1 message

Eric <
To: Print <

Wed, May 25, 2016 at 2:43 PM

Dear Eric Congratulations.

You have led the way.

Keep leading

Happy 105

Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esquire the Third......a man of many titles



Dear Eric Congratulations.

You have led the way.

Keep leading

Happy 105

Respectfully

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esquire the Third......a man of many titles